

Appendix D

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This is a quick description of xSides Conversion and Merge - drawn from the development spec for xSides:

1.1 End User Features

Version 2.2 of xSides should accomplish and provide the following:

(Please Note: the old data structure is contained in an ini, the new data structure is contained in a "Markup file" - inis will not go forward in xSides after conversion).

1 Conversion of Old Data Structures (MySpace 2.1) to New Data Structures (xSides 2.2+)

Conversion of old data structures will happen with a separate executable that resides in the same installed directory as the xSides executable, the new executable is called **converter.exe**.

Conversion process:

- a) Each and every time the xSides executable (pixels.exe) is launched it will check to see if there are any ini or mark-up files of an older version or format that need to be converted to the newest data format.
- b) If ini or mark-up files exist that need to be converted pixels.exe will call converter.exe to make the old data structures match the new data structures and write it into the new data file: **pixels.dat**

2 Merging data

To provide the ability to have dynamic xSides content the ability to merge new cartridges and portals into xSides will be added.

Merge process:

- a) After the xSides executable has performed any conversion of data files that may need to be done, it performs a further check to see if there are any newly downloaded pixels.dat files to be merged with the current pixels.dat. (Pixels.dat files contain data structures for xSides bar and portal areas.)
- b) Pixels.exe will merge the previously existing xSides data and the new xSides cartridge(s) data into a single data tree. And write the newly merged markup file (pixels.dat) in the appropriate install directory.
- c) Merging will happen at the Platinum level of xSides, such that if duplicate data at this level, Category Name ("Where" in the ini/markup), is present in merging bars, the newest data will replace previous data. Any unique data will be merged as a new Platinum category into the existing category list.

In All of these scenarios the following would be true:

- Merging will happen at the Platinum level.
Example:
If xSides Distributor A has an Entertainment Category, and xSides Distributor B has an Entertainment category, when the user already has distribution A installed then downloads distribution B, distribution B will replace distributor A's Entertainment category.
- The most recently downloaded distribution of the xSides bar will take precedence in the merging (replacing duplicate sides with most recently downloaded) - except if it is not the most recent version of the application.
- When Cartridges are the unique at the Platinum level between distributions - unique cartridges will be retained.
- Cartridges will always maintain the original associated distributor's logo.
- Deletion: will be allowed When the Marketplace version is available and installed by the user. Deletion will happen by User choice at the Side level after the application has been installed and they have connected to Marketplace through the xSides interface in Help/Pref/Map/Marketplace area. The user will be presented with a list of currently installed bars along side the other bars the user can install, This dialog also provides that the user can select from the list of currently installed bars and select to remove them.
- There are no limits to the number of cartridges the user may install to their xSides bar. In the case of xSides SDK versions - there should be a statement that the could be a performance hit if they have more than ~~10~~ installed.

- [illegible]

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